

Spring 2008 Update

# The Linkage Project



## Advisory Committee Honored

Children's Advocacy Council Honors the Linkage Project



*Recipients of the Children's Advocacy Council 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Award*

On April 17th at the Regency Hotel in Portland, The Children's Advocacy Council of Cumberland County, Maine awarded The Linkage Project's Statewide Advisory Committee their 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Award, for their work in protecting children and pets. The members are:

- **Norma Worley**, *Director of Maine's Animal Welfare Program, Department of Agriculture*
- **Anne Jordan**, *Commissioner of Public Safety*
- **Lucky Hollander**, *Legislative Director of DHHS*

- **Karen Elliot**, *Director of Adult Protective Services, DHHS*
- **Gretchen Ziemer**, *Legislative Liaison for the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence*
- **Richard Fowler**, *Maine State Police, Dept. of Public Safety*
- **Katie Lisnik**, *Maine Director for the Humane Society of the United States*
- **Ginny Marrinner**, *Director Child Welfare Policy and Practice DHHS,*

The members of the Advisory Committee have championed violence prevention activities

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## Maine to Host National Conference on the Link®

The National Town Meeting dates, June 8th and 9th, are drawing near. As of this writing there is still some room for last minute attendees. If you want to hear first hand from the national experts and other professionals, don't miss this unique opportunity. This type of conference will not be held again in Maine anytime soon.

Join us at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland and be part of the grassroots effort to make connections with others who share an interest in making communities safer for people and pets. Also note that Public Safety Commissioner Anne Jordan, Director Norma Worley from Maine's Animal Welfare Program and Legislative Liaison Gretchen Ziemer from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, along with advocate Susan Walsh, will be featured lunchtime speakers on Sunday June 8th.

For more information:  
[www.linkageproject.org/townmeeting](http://www.linkageproject.org/townmeeting)

For more information on  
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**Linda Jariz, Project Coordinator**  
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## Link 101 Workshop

On Friday April 18th about 50 attendees from various professions in animal welfare, law enforcement and social services gathered at Florian Hall in Augusta to attend a day-long workshop on the link between animal cruelty and human violence. This workshop was a collective effort by member of the Linkage Project's Statewide Advisory Committee, including Katie Lisnik, Maine Director for the Humane Society of the United States, Norma Worley, Director of Maine's Animal Welfare Program, Gretchen Ziemer from the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Linda Jariz, Linkage Project Coordinator, Kathleen Fobear from the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and Paul Rucha, Assistant District Attorney from



Kennebec County. Commissioner Anne Jordan welcomed participants and emphasized the importance of understanding and addressing the link.

On May 7th, an abbreviated version of this workshop was held in Dover-Foxcroft at the Charlotte White Center. Sponsored by WomanCare, this workshop attracted attorneys, domestic violence advocates, children's services workers and more to hear about the link between animal cruelty and human violence. The presenters were Norma Worley, Katie Lisnik, Gretchen Ziemer and Linda Jariz.

If you would like to sponsor this type of workshop in your area, please contact any of the presenters to see about scheduling. 🐾

## Humane Education – Teaching Kids to Care



A Teacher's Guide for integrating humane education activities into the classroom is under development. Using material gathered by Kathleen Fobear of the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland and the resources of the Linkage Project, as well as the Burden Foundation, Maine teachers will soon have a resource guide with sample lesson plans and website links.

The Linkage Project will make this material available through the Maine Education Association and the Linkage Project website. Even though the activities are aimed at teachers, the resource guide will also be helpful to daycare centers, summer camps and parents. Sample plans are included for all age groups. 🐾

## Featured National Town Meeting Expert/Author: Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D.



Frank Ascione is one of the many talented experts participating in the National Town Meeting. Here is some information about his work:

Dr. Ascione received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Georgetown University in 1969 and his doctoral degree in developmental psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1973. He is a professor in the Department of Psychology and adjunct professor in Family and Human Development at Utah State University (USU). Dr. Ascione has published numerous articles on the development of antisocial and prosocial behavior in children, co-edited two books, *Cruelty to Animals and Interpersonal Violence: Readings in Research and Application* (1998), *Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Animal Abuse: Linking the Circles of Compassion for Prevention and Intervention* (1998), and both published by Purdue University Press. He has authored *Safe Havens for Pets: Guidelines for Programs Sheltering Pets for Women who are Battered*. In the fall of 2001, the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention published Ascione's review of animal abuse and youth

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## Congratulations to Adult Protective Services!



This past winter, Adult Protective Services, DHHS added the three pet questions to their intake and assessment protocol and management information system. All adults who are screened by APS workers will be asked about their pets and how they are treated. APS joins the Office of Children and Family Services and Juvenile Corrections in asking about pets.

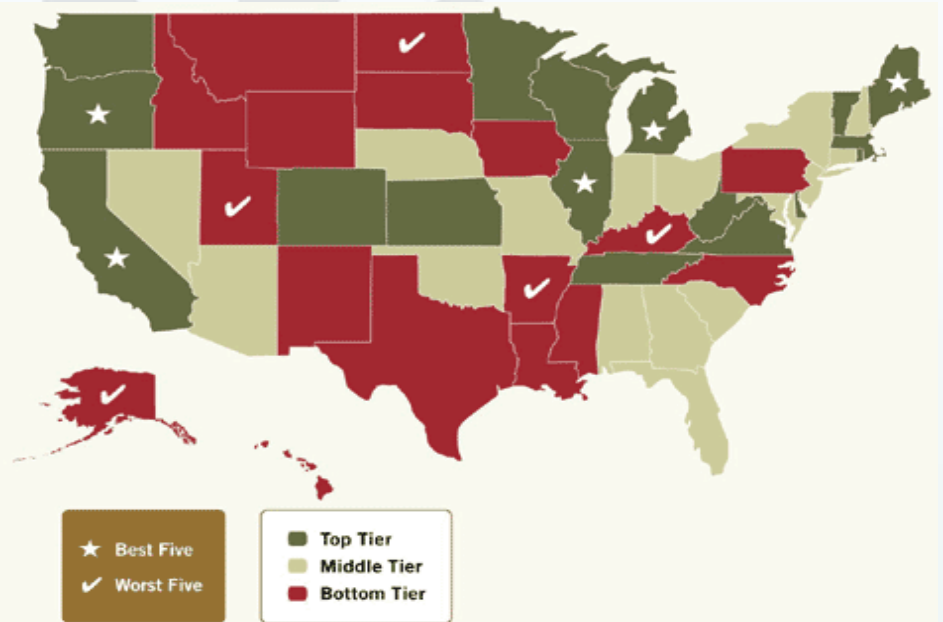
Research findings strongly make the case for the link between abuse of animals and abuse of humans. Congratulations to Adult Protective Services and Director Karen Elliott for making these needed practice changes. 🐾

## Animal Legal Defense Fund Ranks Maine as One of the Top 5 States in Protecting Animals

When the ALDF released its 2007 state ranking, Maine was one of the top 5 states. Here is a portion of that report (reprinted with ALDF permission).

The Animal Legal Defense Fund announces the release of its second annual report ranking every state and the District of Columbia on the relative strength and general comprehensiveness of their animal protection laws. This report, the only one of its kind in the nation, is based on a detailed comparative analysis of the animal protection laws of each jurisdiction, researching fourteen distinct categories of provisions throughout more than 2,800 pages of statutes. The ranking groups states into a top, middle or bottom tier, and includes a listing of the best five and worst five states.

“We saw some significant gains by a number of states this year. However, there are still important areas for improvement in every state’s laws, even for those states currently ranked in the top tier,” says Stephan Otto, Animal Legal Defense Fund’s director of legislative affairs and author of the report. “It is our hope that this report will help draw attention both to the states who are leading the country with their strong animal protection laws, as well as to those states at the lower



2007 State Animal Protection Laws Rankings

end of the rankings – states with laws that are plainly incapable of adequately protecting animals. Animals do not vote, but those who love and care about them do, so we encourage lawmakers to take notice and work on improving these vital laws.”

Please contact your elected officials and encourage them to support improvements to the laws that protect animals. For additional information, see our MODEL ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS collection and ANIMAL PROTECTION LAWS OF THE USA & CANADA compendium. 🐾

## Featured National Town Meeting Expert/Author: Frank R. Ascione, Ph.D. (continued from page 2)

violence as a Research Bulletin. *Children and Animals: Exploring the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty* is Dr. Ascione's latest book and was published in 2005 by Purdue University Press (the book has been translated into Japanese and Italian). *The International Handbook of Animal Abuse and Cruelty: Theory, Research, and Application*, edited by Dr. Ascione was published in late 2007. Development of this handbook was sponsored by the Scott Charitable Trust. Dr. Ascione was selected to receive the 2001 Distinguished Scholar Award from the International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations and the International Society for Anthrozoology and, in 2002, was selected as USU's College of Education Scholar/Researcher of the Year. He serves on the editorial boards of *Anthrozoös*, and *Aggression and Violent Behavior* and

is an adjunct faculty member with the American Humane Association.

Dr. Ascione has conducted research related to humane education and children's attitudes toward animals. More recently, he has focused his attention on child and adolescent animal abuse. This research examines the common roots of violence toward people and animals and is directed at identifying an early indicator of at-risk status in children. An invited speaker at local, national, and international conferences, Dr. Ascione has collaborated with human services, social work, and child development staff working with abused children, with youth corrections personnel, and with state shelters for women who are battered. His work has been supported by the Humane Society of the United States, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the American Humane Association, the Scott Charitable Trust, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Dr. Ascione has provided information or testimony for the state legislatures

of Utah, Ohio, Colorado, and Washington regarding cruelty to animals legislation. He has appeared on CNN's *Live from the Headlines*, the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, had his research cited in the *NY Times* and *USA Today*, and has been a guest on numerous local, national, and international TV and radio programs.

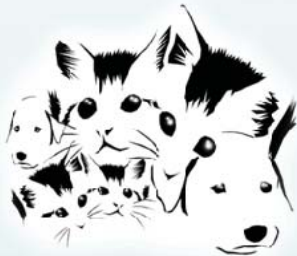
A member of the American Psychological Association and the Society for Research on Child Development, Dr. Ascione served on the Scientific Advisory Council of the Humane Society of the United States and serves on the Child and Animal Abuse Prevention Advisory Council of the Latham Foundation. He is past president of the Southwestern Society for Research in Human Development and is a member of the cadre of experts for The American Psychological Association's Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family.

Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Ascione and his wife Deborah have three adult children, Matthew, Catherine (Santangelo), and David and two grandsons, Calvin and Luca, and reside in Logan, Utah. 🐾

## Notes from Norma

by Norma Worley, Director Maine's Animal Welfare Program.

During the last legislative session several bills were passed related to animal welfare. One of those bills added veterinarians as mandated reporters of suspected



aggravated (felony) animal cruelty. Prior to this most recent legislation, vets had permission to report this crime but were not mandated.

Also note that a committee will meet to begin to consider breeding requirements aimed at curtailing the types of so called "puppy mills" that captured our attention during

the winter and early spring.

Please ask your family and friends to register their dogs! Many people don't know that by registering their dogs they are helping to make Maine a safer place for animals. Maine's Animal Welfare Program is supported in large part through dog license fees. 🐾

## Advisory Committee Honored (continued from page 1)

in significant ways impacting public policy and practices. Both Child Protective and Adult Protective Services, for example, have added questions concerning the welfare of pets in the intake and assessment process completed for children and incapacitated adults respectively. Also, the entire committee banded together to develop and advocate for legislation that enacted cross-reporting laws for animal control officers and social service workers. Today these professionals are allowed to report suspected child or elder abuse and suspected animal cruelty as a result of these public policy changes.

Additionally, this committee led the charge in implementing practices that would provide for pet foster homes for domestic violence victims who need to seek safety in a DV shelter and also have a pet that needs protection.

Making significant change requires a collaborative approach. The above are just a few examples of how this committed group of professionals is

working to prevent violence in Maine. Linda Jariz, Project Coordinator, notes, "It is an honor and privilege to know and work with this wonderful group of people!" 🐾



*The 2008 Children's Advocacy Council Child Abuse Prevention Award*

# The Linkage Project

For more information on the Linkage Project and other resources, including past issues of the newsletter and information on becoming trainers on the link, please log on to [linkageproject.org](http://linkageproject.org).

For more information on the link between animal cruelty and human violence, log on to the Humane Society of the United States at [hsus.org](http://hsus.org) and search the site for First Strike. Publications that cover

many aspects of this link are available to download or order.

HSUS has an on-line university course on integrating humane education in the classroom. For more information go to [humanesocietyu.org](http://humanesocietyu.org).

For information about teaching empathy and humane education, log on to [nahee.org](http://nahee.org).

Information on the link the also available at [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org).

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